

Appln. No. 10/628,519
Amdt dated January 6, 2006
Reply to Office Action of September 14, 2005

REMARKS

In the Office Action of September 14, 2005, the Examiner indicated that the applicant's arguments presented in an Amendment filed June 20, 2005 were considered but were rendered moot in view of new grounds of rejection. However, in the Office Action, the grounds of rejection were identical to those included in the prior Office Action of March 31, 2005.

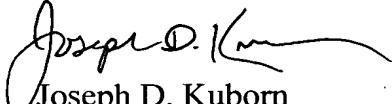
Following discovery of this error, the applicant's undersigned attorney contacted the Examiner in charge of the application on January 4, 2006. The Examiner indicated that a computer error had resulted in the Office Action of September 14, 2005 being generated with the improper claim rejections, which were those included in the Office Action of March 31, 2005. Following the Examiner's request, the applicant is hereby responding to the September 14, 2005 Office Action. The arguments made by the applicant in the Amendment of June 20, 2005 stand with respect to the claim rejections based upon the Sneeringer U.S. Patent 6,618,709 and the Stone U.S. Patent 6,446,045.

The Examiner has indicated that upon receipt of this response, another Office Action will be issued. Based upon the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office error, the applicant requests that such response be expedited and that the Office Action be generated as a non-final Office Action.

The Examiner is invited to contact the applicant's undersigned attorney with any questions or comments, or to otherwise facilitate prosecution of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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